## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Process for the chromatographic separation of components ~~(19, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29)~~ of a multiple-component fluid mixture ~~(2a)~~ by means of ~~the~~ a Simulated Moving Bed Process, in which the multiple-component fluid mixture ~~(2a)~~ and at least one solvent ~~(3a) *are*~~ are passed into a plurality of at least one chamber ~~(10a-10e; 11a-11e; 12a-12e; 13a-13e)~~ or chamber sections containing a solid, at a first and second input ~~(9b, 9d; 9f, 9h)~~, and

an extract flow ~~(6a)~~, which contains at least one first component ~~(19, 26, 29)~~ separated from the multiple-component fluid mixture ~~(2a)~~, as well as a raffinate flow ~~(7a)~~, which contains at least one second component ~~(20, 25, 28)~~ separated from the multiple-component fluid mixture ~~(2a)~~ are drawn off from the chambers ~~(10a-10e; 11a-11e; 12a-12e; 13a-13e)~~ or chamber sections at a first and second outlet ~~(9a, 9c; 9e, 9g)~~, whereby

the chambers ~~(10a-10e; 11a-11e; 12a-12e; 13a-13e)~~ or chamber sections forming a closed circuit ~~(8a, 8b; 18)~~ are connected together in series, and connection ports of the first and second inlets and outlets ~~(9a-9d; 9e-9h)~~ arranged between two chambers ~~(10a, 13e; 10e, 11a; 11e, 12a; 12e, 13a)~~ or chamber sections of the circuit ~~(8a, 8b; 18)~~ are repositioned between two other chambers ~~(10a, 10h; 11a, 11b; 12a, 12b; 13a, 13b)~~ or chamber sections of the circuit at the end of a cyclical time unit, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the concentration of the input multiple-

component fluid mixture ~~(2a)~~ and/or a composition of the solvent ~~(3a)~~ is/are changed within the cycle unit.

2. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ a pressure of the input multiple-component fluid mixture ~~(2a)~~ and/or of the solvent ~~(3a)~~ is changed, in steps and/or continuously, within a cycle unit.

3. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ a temperature of the input multiple-component fluid mixture ~~(2a)~~ and/or of the solvent ~~(3a)~~ is changed, in steps and/or continuously, within a cycle unit.

4. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the concentration of the multiple-component fluid mixture and/or the composition of the solvent is changed, in steps and/or continuously.

5. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ at least one solid is used which is suitable for bringing about differing migration rates of the individual components of the multiple-component fluid mixture in the individual chambers or chamber sections.

6. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the solid is an adsorbent material.

7. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ a mixture of a plurality of fluids is used as solvent ~~(3a)~~.

8. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ a gas or a mixture of a plurality of gases which is/are in a supercritical or subcritical state is used as solvent ~~(3a)~~ and/or multiple-component fluid.

9. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the solvent ~~(3a)~~ contains components which are to be separated.

10. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 9, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the solvent containing the components which are to be separated and the solvent without the components which are to be separated display different compositions and/or capacities in terms of influencing the bonding behaviour of the components which are to be separated in relation to the solid.

11. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ a chemical reaction is ~~carded~~ carried out in the chambers ~~(10a–10c; 11a–11c; 12a–12c; 13a–13c)~~ or chamber sections in order to produce and separate the components.

12. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the connection ports of the first and second inlets and outlets ~~(9a–9d; 9e–9h)~~ are repositioned at different times.

13. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ at least one volume flow of the multiple-component fluid mixture ~~(2a)~~, of the solvent ~~(3a)~~, of the extract flow ~~(6a)~~, of the raffinate flow ~~(7a)~~ and internal recirculation flows is changed, in steps and/or continuously, within a cycle unit.

14. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for performing the process according to claim 1.